



A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Goodbye June and hello July! As we steamroll through this year, I enjoy the opportunity each month to reflect on our achievements and learn from the challenges we faced.

We have been busy the past few weeks preparing for the launch of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Workforce Mentor Course to be held on July 6th. This will be a rewarding event as we get to celebrate a major milestone in the accreditation of this course. We look forward to catching up with Frank Tudor from Jemena and his passionate team who have supported Saltbush and Karen Sheldon Training in the journey to make this course a reality.

A huge round of applause has to go to our Employment Services teams in Darwin, Alice Springs and Tennant Creek who have gone above and beyond in the last few weeks to successfully help over 50 job seekers commence work. This amazing feat

could not have been made possible without the support and willingness of so many local employers and we thank each and every one of them for wanting to make a difference.

On a recent trip to Alice Springs, I met with several interested parties to discuss strategies aimed at providing more opportunities and alternatives for local youth to engage in capacity-building activities. I am looking forward to continuing to explore opportunities to work with other passionate organisations like Bushmob on innovative and targeted ideas.

I was thrilled to meet with Margaret Berman from the Backpack Project who kindly donated 60 backpacks full of survival things for the young people we work with in Alice Springs for when they leave the program. Margaret also shared information about the PEP program (Peace Education Program) which is designed to help participants develop positive life skills and discover innate strengths and understand the possibility of attaining personal peace. The program is being delivered in many countries throughout the world including to Maori people in the justice system in NZ. I look forward to keeping up a dialogue about the positive impact it could have on participants in our programs.

Territory Families conducted an evaluation of the Supported Bail Accommodation program and Saltbush was pleased to provide a comprehensive appraisal from the viewpoint of a provider delivering the service. We participated in several interviews and are hopeful that our opinions and recommendations will be heeded as the SBA model is no doubt reviewed ahead of the next tender round.

We had an amazing opportunity to meet with the Department of Education to discuss solutions that better address the challenges faced by most of our young people in attending mainstream school, and the lack of alternatives. Our concerns and ideas were very well received and we are confident that we will be seeing some significant changes in what is on offer so watch this space!

It would be impossible for me to talk about the positive impact Saltbush can make without every member of the Saltbush team putting in 100% every day. As always, I thank them for their commitment to making a difference and I look forward to sharing more of our progress next month.

Nicole Shackcloth
CEO, Saltbush Social Enterprises



RIDING CHANGE

The Darwin Supported Bail Accommodation have recently introduced Bike riding to their Activities Program, winning over everyone at the facility!

Many of our young people have asked to go for bike rides during their downtime and during times of frustration.

Saltbush Staff have found this time-out on the bikes has worked as a great opportunity for them to check in with the young people and see how they are doing in a neutral environment.



ARRCS COLLABORATION WITH THE FUTURE STARS PROGRAM

The Alice Springs Saltbush Future Stars Program worked in collaboration with ARRCS throughout May and June, delivering Aged Care Training for Indigenous participants.

Australian Regional and Remote Community Services (ARRCS) provides care and support to people in regional and urban communities, throughout the Northern Territory and beyond. ARRCS is trialling this process to improve their Indigenous employment and provide a

pathway for Indigenous job seekers to work in the Carers sector.

After completing the 4-week Future Stars Program, the participants were placed into a 2-week work placement with ARRCS, where each participant was placed into roles that best suit their individual skills. The successful candidates will continue to be supported by a Saltbush Mentor for the first 6 months to ensure a smooth transition into their new career.



GIVING A VOICE TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

During May the young people at Darwin Supported Bail Accommodation had the opportunity to visit TEABBA Radio station, who broadcast 24/7 into 29 remote Indigenous communities across the Top End.

This visit was accompanied by the Saltbush Activities Coordinator, Charles Mbouti, who also works as a professional DJ. The young people were exposed to what it takes to work in radio and were provided some great behind the scenes exposure to how a radio program is produced.



EMPLOYMENT SERVICES CARISSA MULLINS



Carissa Mullins was a stay-at-home mum for much of her adult life. Originally from Tiwi Island, Carissa has spent most of her life in Darwin. Determined to set a good example for her kids, with all her children entering high school last year, Carissa wanted to enter the workforce.

With little work experience, Carissa reached out to the Managing Director of the Karen Sheldon Group, Karen Sheldon who brought her on to work at the Howard Springs Quarantine Centre as a Kitchen Assistant. Carissa was supported from her Mentor Skylie at Saltbush Employment Services Darwin to overcome any barriers she faced.

Looking to upskill her resume, Carissa completed Food Safe qualification with Karen Sheldon Training, a critical skill to have when working with food and drink. Gaining confidence and experience, Carissa took it upon herself to apply for new roles when the workload at Howard Springs began to quiet down.

In March 2022, Carissa landed herself a new job at Ventia as a Food Beverage Attendant!

Carissa's Saltbush Mentor Skylie had this to say: *"When I first met Carissa, I could tell she was a very determined individual. Through the 26 weeks of working with Carissa, I am proud of the person she has become and the strength she has obtained from the everyday challenges that she endured. Good work Carissa, I wish you all the best for the future!"*

These days Carissa tells us how much she has enjoyed all the work she has accomplished these past 6 months. Acting as a positive example for her children and showing them what hard work can do, Carissa looks forward to one day owning her own restaurant!

From everyone at Saltbush, we all wish you the best of luck in your future! We can't wait to see you reach your goal in owning your own establishment!

EXCELLING AT YOUR FULLEST POTENTIAL

*Liam is a young person from Supported Bail Accommodation in Alice Springs. When Liam first came to the Saltbush facility in February, he wasn't attending school and would not engage in activities, he also refused to talk or engage with both Saltbush Support Workers and Counsellors.

Determined as ever, the Saltbush staff showed kindness and patience with Liam. Over time, Support Workers celebrated the small steps of success when Liam began to interact with staff, attend school and getting active! Since then, it's been a struggle to keep Liam sitting still, striving for greatness in each aspect of his life.

Liam soon began to push the other young people at Saltbush Supported Bail Accommodation to get out and exercise, especially getting them out on the footy field. Without fail, Liam was attending school every day and loving it. The school informed the Saltbush staff how much Liam had excelled since starting back at school, with Math being his favourite subject!

Eventually Liam completed his Bail conditions and returned to live with family in Alice Springs. Saltbush continued to reach out to Liam, picking him up for school and having regular check ins, making sure that Liam is excelling at his fullest potential.

**Names have been changed to protect the privacy of the individuals in this story*



EMPLOYMENT SERVICES SHIKIRA BEDFORD



Originally from the small township of Fitzroy Crossing in the Kimberly region of Western Australia, Shikira Bedford is a proud Bunuba woman who travelled to Darwin with hopes of finding different work opportunities.

With the help of Wise Employment, Shikira came to Saltbush Employment Services and began working at the Howard Springs Quarantine as a Kitchen Assistant with Karen Sheldon Catering during the Christmas period. Afterwards, Shikira transitioned into a new role at Jani King as a part-time Housekeeper.

Throughout her six-month journey with Saltbush, Shikira learnt to overcome challenges in establishing a routine and creating a healthy work-life balance. Shikira has since found value in working, becoming more motivated and financially stable.

Saltbush Employment Services Mentor, Skylic had this to say: *"When I first met Shikira, she was very shy and was trying to find her feet. Over the last six months, I have seen a positive change in Shikira. She has always been a polite and caring person and I am excited to see Shikira continue to rise up in her employment journey. Shikira was a role model participant and I have enjoyed mentoring her over the past 26 weeks. Good luck Shikira!"*

A big congratulations on all your success, from everyone at Saltbush, we're all wishing you the very best!

WELCOME TO THE TEAM



DEWAN AHMED

*Counsellor,
Alice Springs*

Dewan is a diligent Social Worker with more than 11 years of experience providing trauma-informed and strengths-based interventions to children, young people and families. His skills include counselling, therapeutic crisis intervention, restorative practice, community education, training and stakeholder management. Dewan has been in Central Australian Regional areas for two years; and before joining with Saltbush Social Enterprises, he worked with Indigenous children, young people, families and communities under Life Without Barriers and the Australian Red Cross.

As a Counsellor at Saltbush Social Enterprises, Dewan supports children and young people at Supported Bail Accommodation.



PRATISTHA SHRESTHA

*HR Administrator,
Darwin*

Pratistha (Trish) Shrestha has lived in Darwin for the past 2 years. In her previous job, Trish worked in a similar role at Danila Dilba Health Services as a People and Culture Officer providing human resources management principles.

Excited to be on board with Saltbush; Trish looks forward to putting her skills and experience to use and learning a great deal in the process!



JENNA HINGSTON

*Admin Assistant,
Darwin*

Originally from Tennant Creek, Jenna has lived in Darwin for the past 20 years. With a passion for helping people, Jenna's background spans Administration work with the Department of PM&C (now NIAA), Teachers Aid across two schools, and working at a cat boarding facility caring for cats.

Since joining Saltbush, Jenna looks forward to working with First Australians, acting as the first point of contact for participants looking to find work.

VACANCIES

Activities Coordinator

Alice Springs

Case Manager

Alice Springs

Residential Youth Support Worker

Alice Springs

Quality, Risk and Compliance Officer

Darwin

Learn more:

careers.saltbushnt.org.au

